

Message Text

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ACTION OES-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06806

LIMDIS

PASS AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY - IAEA VIENNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC, UK
SUBJECT: US-EURATOM NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7937; (B) BRUSSELS 7964

1. THE SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELORS CALLED ON
HANNAY AND WILMSHURST OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE APRIL 28
TO DISCUSS THE US-EURATOM NEGOTIATION.

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2. AT THE VERY OUTSET HANNAY, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED
FROM BRUSSELS, SAID HE KNEW THAT THERE HAD BEEN A
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH, AMBASSADOR HINTON,
AND THE COMMISSION EARLIER THIS WEEK, A CONVERSATION
WHICH ESTABLISHED THAT THE FRENCH, CONTRARY TO THE HOPES
SOME HAD ENTERTAINED BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS, HAD
NOT SOFTENED THEIR POSITION. HANNAY SAID HE WAS NOT

CLEAR WHAT THE FRENCH GAME WAS. IN ANY CASE, THE ATTITUDE OF THE REST OF THE MEMBER STATES REMAINED UNCHANGED--THEY ARE WILLING TO STATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RENEGOTIATE SO LONG AS THIS IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE A FORMAL STEP WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WOULD IN SUBSTANCE ONLY BEGIN AFTER INFCE'S OUTCOME IS KNOWN. WHILE THE EIGHT ARE WILLING TO BE PROCEDURALLY ACCOMMODATING, SOME OF THEM, INCLUDING THE U.K., SHARE THE FRENCH FEELINGS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REQUIREMENT TO RENEGOTIATE AND ON THE ONE HAND THE VALIDITY OF THE US-EURATOM AGREEMENT AND ON THE OTHER THE TERMS ON WHICH THEY HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN INFCE.

3. HANNAY ASSURED US THAT THE BRITISH KEEP ON SAYING THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD DO THE PROCEDURAL MINIMUM. BUT BRITISH MINISTERS ARE NOT AT ALL LIKELY TO BRING SERIOUS PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE FRENCH, NOR IS GERMANY LIKELY TO DO SO, IN HIS OPINION. THE OTHER MEMBER STATES, EVEN IN CASES WHERE THEY MIGHT BE INCLINED TO DO SO, DON'T HAVE SUFFICIENT WEIGHT TO MATTER.

4. HANNAY AND WILMSHURST THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE WAS FOR THE U.S. TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE FRENCH. THEY FELT THE U.S. MIGHT BEGIN BY TRYING TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO RECEDE
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FROM THEIR POSITION, BUT THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO HAVE READY, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY USE, A FALLBACK POSITION. THIS, THEY FELT, WOULD PROBABLY TAKE THE FORM OF A STILL WEAKER STATEMENT OF INTENT TO NEGOTIATE THAN THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN WILLING TO BUY. THIS STATEMENT MIGHT AMOUNT TO SAYING THAT "THE COMMUNITY WOULD AGREE TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF INFCE--IF NECESSARY." IF THE FRENCH BY QUIET BUT HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL DIPLOMACY COULD BE PERSUADED TO GO THIS FAR, HANNAY AND WILMSHURST ARE SURE THE OTHER EIGHT WOULD ACCEPT WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED. AND THEY FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE--IF THE ADMINISTRATION WANTED--ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY IN THE LAW TO PERMIT THE U.S. TO ACCEPT SUCH LANGUAGE.

5. IF A U.S.-FRENCH DEAL CANNOT BE WORKED OUT, THE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD WILL BE SEVERELY DAMAGED, THEY SAID. THIS WOULD, IN PARTICULAR, BE TRUE OF INFCE, WHICH THE BRITISH REGARD AS SIGNIFICANT AS OFFERING THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A NON-PROLIFERATION CONSENSUS; IF NATIONS TURN AWAY FROM SUCH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, THE FORCES MAKING FOR CONFRONTA-

TION WILL GROW STRONQER.

BREWSTER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, CAMP

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